



BY DAVID OVER.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

In obedience to the command of the constitution, it is now my duty to give to Congress information of the state of the Union, and to recommend to their consideration such measures as I judge to be "necessary and expedient."

But first, and above all, our thanks are due to Almighty God for the numerous benefits which He has bestowed upon this people; and our united prayers ought to ascend to Him that He would continue to bless our great republic in time to come as He has blessed it in the past. Since the adjournment of the last Congress our constituents have enjoyed an unusual degree of health. The earth has yielded her fruits abundantly, and as bountifully rewarded the toil of the husbandman. Our great staples have commanded high prices, and, up till within a brief period, our manufacturing, mineral, and mechanical occupations have largely partaken of the general prosperity. We have possessed all the elements of material wealth in rich abundance, and yet, notwithstanding all these advantages, our country, in its monetary interests, is at the present moment in a deplorable condition. In the midst of unsurpassed plenty in all the productions of agriculture and in all the elements of national wealth, we find our manufactures suspended, our public works retarded, our private enterprises of different kinds abandoned, and thousands of useful laborers thrown out of employment and reduced to want. The revenue of this government, which is chiefly derived from duties on imports from abroad, has been greatly reduced, whilst the appropriations made by Congress at its last session for the current fiscal year are very large in amount.

Under these circumstances, a loan may be required before the close of your present session but this, although deeply to be regretted, would prove to be only a slight misfortune when compared with the suffering and distress prevailing among the people. With this the government cannot fail deeply to sympathize, though it may be without the power to extend relief.

It is our duty to inquire what has produced such unfortunate results, and whether their recurrence can be prevented. In all former revolutions the blame might have been fairly attributed to a variety of co-operating causes, but not so upon the present occasion. It is apparent that our existing misfortunes have proceeded solely from our extravagant and vicious system of paper currency and bank credits, exciting the people to wild speculations and gambling in stocks. These revolutions must continue to recur at successive intervals so long as the amount of the paper currency and bank loans and discounts of the country shall be left to the discretion of fourteen hundred irresponsible banking institutions, which from the very law of their nature will consult the interest of their stockholders rather than the public welfare.

The framers of the constitution, when they gave to Congress the power "to coin money, and to regulate the value thereof," and prohibited the States from coining money, emitting bills of credit, or making anything but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts, supposed they had protected the people against the evils of an excessive and irredeemable paper currency. They are not responsible for the existing anomaly that a government endowed with the sovereign attribute of coining money and regulating the value thereof should have no power to prevent others from driving this coin out of the country and filling up the channels of circulation with paper which does not represent gold and silver.

It is one of the highest and most responsible duties of government to insure to the people a sound circulating medium, the amount of which ought to be adapted with the utmost possible wisdom and skill to the wants of internal trade and foreign exchanges. If this is either greatly above or greatly below the proper standard, the marketable value of every man's property is increased or diminished in the same proportion and injustice to individuals as well as incalculable evils to the community are the consequence.

Unfortunately, under the construction of the federal constitution, which has now prevailed too long to be changed, this important and delicate duty has been discovered from the existing power and virtually transferred to more than fourteen hundred State banks, acting independently of each other, and regulating their paper issues almost exclusively by a regard to the present interest of their stockholders. Exercising the sovereign power of providing a paper currency, instead of coin, for the country, the first duty which these banks owe to the public is to keep in their vaults a sufficient amount of gold and silver to insure the convertibility of their notes into coin at all times and under all circumstances. No bank ought ever to be chartered without such restrictions on its business as to secure this result. All other restrictions are comparatively vain. This is the only true touchstone, the only efficient regulator of a paper currency—the only efficient guard the public against over-issues and bank suspensions. As a collateral and eventual security it is doubtless wise, and in all cases ought to be required, that banks securities equal to their notes in circulation and pledged for their redemption. This, however, furnishes no adequate security against over-issues. On the contrary, it may be perverted to inflate the currency. Indeed, it is possible by this means to convert all the debts of the United States and State governments into bank notes, without reference to the specie required to redeem them. However valuable these securities may be in themselves, they cannot be converted into gold and silver at the moment of pressure, as our experience teaches,

in sufficient time to prevent bank suspensions and the depreciation of bank notes. In England, which is to a considerable extent a paper-money country, though vastly behind our own in this respect, it was deemed advisable, anterior to the act of Parliament of 1844, which wisely separated the issue of notes from the banking department, for the Bank of England always to keep on hand gold and silver equal to one-third of its combined circulation and deposits. If this proportion was no more than sufficient to secure the convertibility of its notes, with the whole of Great Britain, and to some extent the continent of Europe, as a field for its circulation, rendering it almost impossible that a sudden and immediate run to a dangerous amount should be made upon it, the same proportion would certainly be insufficient under our banking system. Each of our fourteen hundred banks has but a limited circumference for its circulation, and in the course of a very few days the depositors and note-holders might demand from such a bank a sufficient amount in specie to compel it to suspend, even though it had coin in its vaults equal to one-third of its immediate liabilities. And yet I am not aware, with the exception of the banks of Louisiana, that any State bank throughout the Union has been required by its charter to keep this or any other proportion of gold and silver compared with the amount of its combined circulation and deposits. What has been the consequence? In a recent report made by the Treasury Department on the condition of the banks throughout the different States, according to returns dated nearest to January, 1857, the aggregate amount of actual specie in their vaults was \$55,949,838, of their circulation \$214,778,822, and of their deposits \$230,351,352. Thus it appears that these banks in the aggregate have considerably less than one dollar in seven of gold and silver compared with their circulation and deposits. It was palpable, therefore, that the very first pressure must drive them to suspension, and deprive the people of a convertible currency with all its disastrous consequences. It is truly wonderful that they should have so long continued to preserve their credit, when a demand for the payment of one-seventh of their immediate liabilities would have driven them into insolvency. And this is the condition of the banks, notwithstanding that four hundred millions of gold from California have flowed in upon us within the last eight years, and the tide still continues to flow. Indeed, such has been the extravagance of bank credits that the banks now hold a considerably less amount of specie, either in proportion to their capital or to their circulation and deposits combined, than they did before the discovery of gold in California. Whilst in the year 1848 their specie in proportion to their capital was more than equal to one dollar for four and a half, in 1857 it does not amount to one dollar for every six dollars and thirty-three cents of their capital. In the year 1848 the specie was equal within a very small fraction to one dollar in five of their circulation and deposits; in 1857 it is not equal to one dollar in seven and a half of their circulation and deposits.

From this statement it is easy to account for our financial history for the last forty years—it has been a history of extravagant expansions in the business of the country, followed by ruinous contractions. At successive intervals the best and most enterprising men have been tempted to their ruin by excessive bank loans of more paper credit, exciting them to extravagant importations of foreign goods, wild speculations, and ruinous and demoralizing stock gambling. When the crisis arrives, as arrive it must, the banks can extend no relief to the people. In a vain struggle to redeem their liabilities in specie they are compelled to contract their loans and their issues; and at last, in the hour of distress, when their assistance is most needed, they and their debtors together sink into insolvency.

It is this paper system of extravagant expansion, raising the nominal price of every article far beyond its real value, when compared with the cost of similar articles in countries whose circulation is wisely regulated, which has prevented us from competing in our own markets with foreign manufacturers, has produced extravagant importations, and has counteracted the effect of the large incidental protection afforded to our domestic manufactures by the present revenue tariff. But for this the branches of our manufactures composed of raw materials, the production of our own country—such as cotton, iron, and woolen fabrics—would not only have acquired almost exclusive possession of the home market, but would have created for themselves a foreign market throughout the world.

Deplorable, however, as may be our present financial condition, we may yet indulge in bright hopes for the future. No other nation has ever existed which could have endured such violent expansions and contractions of paper credit without lasting injury; yet the buoyancy of youth, the energies of our population, and the spirit which never quails before difficulties, will enable us soon to recover from our present financial embarrassment, and may even occasion us speedily to forget the lesson which they have taught.

In the meantime it is the duty of the government, by all proper means within its power, to aid in alleviating the sufferings of the people occasioned by the suspension of the banks, and to provide against a recurrence of the same calamity. Unfortunately, in either aspect of the case, it can do but little. Thanks to the independent treasury, the government has not suspended payment, as it was compelled to do in 1837. It will continue to discharge its liabilities to the people in gold and silver. Its disbursements in coin will pass into circulation, and materially assist in restoring a sound currency. From its high credit, should we be compelled to make a temporary loan, it can be effected on advantageous terms. This, however, shall, if possible, be avoided; but, if not,

then the amount shall be limited to the lowest practicable sum. I have, therefore, determined that whilst no useful government works already in progress shall be suspended, no new works, not already commenced, will be postponed, if this can be done without injury to the country. Those necessary for its defense shall proceed as though there had been no crisis in our monetary affairs.

But the federal government cannot do much to provide against a recurrence of existing evils. Even if insurmountable constitutional objections did not exist against the creation of a National Bank, this would furnish no adequate preventive security. The history of the last Bank of the United States abundantly proves the truth of this assertion. Such a bank could not, if it would, regulate the issues and credits of fourteen hundred State banks in such a manner as to prevent the ruinous expansions and contractions in our currency which afflicted the country throughout the existence of the late bank, or secure us against future suspension. In 1825 an effort was made by the Bank of England to curtail the issues of the country banks under the most favorable circumstances. The paper currency had been expanded to a ruinous extent, and the Bank put forth all its power to contract it in order to reduce prices and restore the equilibrium of the foreign exchanges. It accordingly commenced a system of curtailment of its loans and issues, in the main hope that the joint stock and private banks of the kingdom would be compelled to follow its example. It failed, however, that as it contracted they expanded, and at the end of the process, to employ the language of a very high official authority, "whatever reduction of the paper circulation was effected by the Bank of England (in 1825) was more than made up by the issue of the country banks."

But a Bank of the United States would not, if it could, restrain the issues and loans of the State banks, because its duty as a regulator of the currency must often be in direct conflict with the immediate interest of its stockholders. If we expect one agent to restrain or control another, their interests must, at least in some degree, be antagonistic. But the directors of a Bank of the United States would feel the same interest and the same inclination with the directors of the State banks to expand the currency, to accommodate their favorites and friends with loans, and to declare large dividends. Such has been our experience in regard to the last bank.

After all, we must mainly rely upon the patriotism and wisdom of the States for the prevention and redress of the evil. If they will afford us a real specie basis for our paper circulation by increasing the denomination of bank notes, first to twenty, and afterwards to fifty dollars; if they will require that the banks shall at all times keep on hand at least one dollar of gold and silver for every three dollars of their circulation and deposits; and if they will provide by a self-executing enactment, which nothing can arrest, that the moment they suspend they shall go into liquidation, I believe that such provisions, with a weekly publication by each bank of a statement of its condition, would go far to secure us against future suspensions of specie payments.

Congress, in my opinion, possesses the power to pass a uniform bankrupt law applicable to all banking institutions throughout the United States, and I strongly recommend its exercise. This would make it the irreversible organic law of each bank's existence, that a suspension of specie payments shall produce its civil death. The instinct of self-preservation would then compel it to perform its duties in such a manner as to escape the penalty and preserve its life.

The existence of banks and the circulation of bank paper are so identified with the habits of our people, that they cannot at this day be suddenly abolished without much immediate injury to the country. If we could confine them to their appropriate sphere, and prevent them from administering to the spirit of wild and reckless speculation by extravagant loans and issues, they might be continued with advantage to the public.

But this I say, after long and much reflection: if experience shall prove it to be impossible to enjoy the facilities which well-regulated banks might afford, without at the same time suffering the calamities which the excesses of the banks have hitherto inflicted upon the country, it would then be far the lesser evil to deprive them altogether of the power to issue a paper currency and confine them to the functions of banks of deposit and discount.

Our relations with foreign governments are, upon the whole, in a satisfactory condition. The diplomatic difficulties which existed between the government of the United States and that of Great Britain at the adjournment of the last Congress have been happily terminated by the appointment of a British minister to this country, who has been cordially received.

Whilst it is greatly to the interest, as I am convinced it is the sincere desire, of the governments and people of the two countries to be on terms of intimate friendship with each other, it has been our misfortune almost always to have had some irritating, if not dangerous, outstanding question with Great Britain.

Since the origin of the government we have been employed in negotiating treaties with that power, and afterwards in discussing their true intent and meaning. In this respect, the convention of April 19, 1850, commonly called the Clayton and Bulwer treaty, has been the most unfortunate of all; because the two governments place directly opposite and contradictory constructions upon its first and most important article. Whilst, in the United States, we believed that this treaty would place both powers upon an exact equality by the stipulation that neither will ever "occupy, or fortify, or colonize, or assume or exercise any dominion" over any part of Central America, it is

contended by the British Government that the true construction of this language has left them in the rightful possession of all that portion of Central America which was in their occupancy at the date of the treaty; in fact, that the treaty is a virtual recognition on the part of the United States of the right of Great Britain, either as owner or protector, to the whole expanse of Central America, sweeping from the Rio Hondo to the port and harbor of San Juan de Nicaragua, together with the adjacent Bay Islands, except the comparatively small portion of this between the Sarsotop and Cape Honduras. According to their construction, the treaty does no more than simply prohibit them from extending their present limits. It is not too much to assert, that if in the United States the treaty had been considered susceptible of such a construction, it never would have been negotiated under the authority of the President, nor would it have received the approval of the Senate. The universal conviction in the United States was, that when our government consented to violate its traditional and time honored policy, and to stipulate with a foreign government never to occupy or acquire territory in the Central American portion of our own continent, the consideration for this sacrifice was that Great Britain should, in this respect at least, be placed in the same position with ourselves. What we have no right to doubt the sincerity of the British government in their construction of the treaty, it is at the same time my deliberate conviction that this construction is in opposition both to its letter and its spirit.

Under the late administration negotiations were instituted between the two governments for the purpose, if possible, of removing these difficulties; and a treaty having this laudable object in view was signed at London on the 17th October, 1856, and was submitted by the President to the Senate on the following 10th of December. Whether this treaty, either in its original or amended form, would have accomplished the object intended without giving birth to new and embarrassing complications between the two governments, may perhaps be well questioned. Certain it is, however, it was rendered much less objectionable by the different amendments made to it by the Senate. The treaty, as amended, was ratified by me on the 12th March, 1857, and was transmitted to London for ratification by the British government.

That government expressed its willingness to concur in all the amendments made by the Senate with the single exception of the clause relating to Guatan and the other islands in the Bay of Honduras. The article in the original treaty, as submitted to the Senate, after reciting that these islands and their inhabitants "having been by a convention bearing date the 27th day of August, 1856, between her Britannic Majesty and the republic of Honduras, constituted and declared a free territory under the sovereignty of the said republic of Honduras," stipulated "that the two contracting parties do hereby mutually engage to recognize and respect in all future time the independence and rights of the said free territory as a part of the republic of Honduras."

Upon an examination of this convention between Great Britain and Honduras of the 27th August, 1856, it was found that, whilst declaring the Bay Islands to be a free territory under the sovereignty of the republic of Honduras, it deprived that republic of rights without which its sovereignty over them could scarcely be said to exist. It divided them from the remainder of Honduras, and gave to their inhabitants a separate government of their own, with legislative, executive, and judicial officers, elected by themselves. It deprived the government of Honduras of the taxing power in every form, and exempted the people of the islands from the performance of military duty except for their own exclusive defence. It also prohibited that republic from erecting fortifications upon them for their protection—thus leaving them open to invasion from any quarter; and, finally, it provided "that slavery shall not at any time hereafter be permitted to exist therein."

Had Honduras ratified this convention, she would have ratified the establishment of a State substantially independent within her own limits; and a State at all times subject to British influence and control. Moreover, had the United States ratified the treaty with Great Britain in its original form, we should have been bound "to recognize and respect in all future time" these stipulations to the prejudice of Honduras. Being in direct opposition to the spirit and meaning of the Clayton and Bulwer treaty as understood in the United States, the Senate rejected the entire clause, and substituted in its stead a simple recognition of the sovereign right of Honduras to these islands in the following language: "The two contracting parties do hereby mutually engage to recognize and respect the islands of Guatan, Bonaco, Util, Barbareta, Helena, and Morat, situated in the Bay of Honduras, and off the coast of the republic of Honduras, as under the sovereignty and as part of the said republic of Honduras."

Great Britain rejected this amendment, assigning as the only reason, that the ratifications of the convention of the 27th August, 1856, between her and Honduras, had not been "exchanged, owing to the hesitation of that government." Had this been done, it is stated that "her Majesty's government would have had little difficulty in agreeing to the modification proposed by the Senate, which then would have had in effect the same significance as the original wording." Whether this would have been the effect, whether the mere circumstance of the exchange of the ratifications of the British convention with Honduras prior in point of time to the ratification of our treaty with Great Britain would, "in effect," have had the same significance as the original wording, and thus have nullified the amendment of the Senate, may well be doubted. It is, perhaps, fortunate that the question has never arisen.

The British government, immediately after rejecting the treaty as amended, proposed to enter into a new treaty with the United States, similar in all respects to the treaty which they had just refused to ratify, if the United States would consent to add to the Senate's clear and unqualified recognition of the sovereignty of Honduras over the Bay Islands the following conditional stipulation: "Whenever and as soon as the republic of Honduras shall have concluded and ratified a treaty with Great Britain, by which Great Britain shall have ceded, and the republic of Honduras shall have accepted, the said islands; subject to the provisions and conditions contained in such treaty."

This proposition was, of course, rejected. After the Senate had refused to recognize the British convention with Honduras of the 27th August, 1856, with full knowledge of its contents, it was impossible for me, necessarily ignorant of "the provisions and conditions" which might be contained in a future convention between the same parties, to sanction them in advance.

The fact is that when two nations like Great Britain and the United States, mutually desirous, as they are, and I trust ever may be, of maintaining the most friendly relations with each other, have unfortunately concluded a treaty which they understand in senses directly opposite, the wisest course is to abrogate such a treaty by mutual consent, and to commence anew. Had this been done promptly, all difficulties in Central America would most probably ere this have been adjusted to the satisfaction of both parties. The time spent in discussing the meaning of the Clayton and Bulwer treaty would have been devoted to this praiseworthy purpose, and the task would have been the more easily accomplished because the interest of the two countries in Central America is identical, being confined to securing safe transit over all the routes across the Isthmus.

Whilst entertaining these sentiments, I shall nevertheless not refuse to contribute to any reasonable adjustment of the Central American questions which is not practically inconsistent with the American interpretation of the treaty. Overtures for this purpose have been recently made by the British government in a friendly spirit, which I cordially reciprocate; but whether this renewed effort will result in success I am not yet prepared to express an opinion. A brief period will determine.

With France our ancient relations of friendship and alliance are, as ever, the same. Our government have in several recent instances which need not be enumerated, evinced a spirit of good will and kindness towards our country which I heartily reciprocate. It is, notwithstanding, much to be regretted that two nations whose productions are of such a character as to invite the most extensive exchanges and freest commercial intercourse, should continue to enforce ancient and obsolete restrictions of trade against each other. Our commercial treaty with France is in this respect an exception from our treaties with all other commercial nations. It jealously levies discriminating duties both on tonnage and on articles, the growth, produce, or manufacture of the one country, when arriving in vessels belonging to the other.

More than forty years ago, on the 31st March, 1815, Congress passed an act offering to all nations to admit their vessels laden with their national productions into the ports of the United States upon the same terms with our own vessels, provided they would reciprocate to us similar advantages. This act confined the reciprocity to the productions of the respective foreign nations who might enter into the proposed arrangement with the United States. The act of May 24, 1828, removed this restriction, and offered a similar reciprocity to all such vessels without reference to the origin of their cargoes. Upon these principles, our commercial treaties and arrangements have been founded, except with France; and let us hope that this exception may not long exist.

Our relations with Russia remain, as they have ever been, on the most friendly footing. The present Emperor, as well as his predecessors, have never failed, when the occasion offered, to manifest their good will to our country; and their friendship has always been highly appreciated by the government and people of the United States.

With all other European governments, except that of Spain, our relations are as peaceful as we could desire. I regret to say that no progress whatever has been made, since the adjournment of Congress, towards the settlement of any of the numerous claims of our citizens against the Spanish government. Besides, the outrage committed on our flag by the Spanish war-ship *Ferrolan* on the high seas off the coast of Cuba, in March, 1853, by firing into the American mail steamer *El Dorado* and detaining and searching her, remains unacknowledged and unredressed. The general tone and temper of the Spanish government towards that of the United States are such to be regretted. Our present envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Madrid has asked to be recalled; and it is my purpose to send out a new minister to Spain, with special instructions on all questions pending between the two governments, and with a determination to have them speedily and amicably adjusted, if this be possible. In the meantime, whenever our minister urges the just claims of our citizens on the notice of the Spanish government, he is met with the objection that Congress have never made the appropriation recommended by President Polk in his annual message of December, 1847, "to be paid to the Spanish government for the purpose of distribution among the claimants in the Amistad case." A similar recommendation was made by my immediate predecessor in his message of December, 1853, and entirely concurring with both in the opinion that this indemnity is justly due under the treaty with Spain of the 27th October, 1795, I earnestly recommend such an appropriation to the favorable consideration of Congress.

A treaty of friendship and commerce was concluded at Constantinople on the 13th December, 1856, between the United States and Persia, the ratifications of which were exchanged at Constantinople on the 18th June, 1857, and the treaty was proclaimed by the President on the 13th August, 1857. This treaty, it is believed, will prove beneficial to American commerce. The Shah has manifested an earnest disposition to cultivate friendly relations with our country, and has expressed a strong wish that we should be represented at Taberan by a minister plenipotentiary; and I recommend that an appropriation be made for this purpose.

Recent occurrences in China have been unfavorable to a revision of the treaty with that empire of the 22nd July, 1844, with a view to the security and extension of our commerce. The 24th article of this treaty stipulated for a revision of it, in case experience should prove this to be requisite; "in which case the two governments will, at the expiration of twelve years from the date of said convention, treat amicably concerning the same, by means of suitable persons appointed to conduct such negotiations." These twelve years expired on the 23rd July, 1856; but long before that period it was ascertained that important changes in the treaty were necessary; and several fruitless attempts were made by the commissioner of the United States to effect these changes.

Another effort was about to be made for the same purpose by our commissioner, in conjunction with the ministers of England and France, but this was suspended by the occurrence of hostilities in the Canton river between Great Britain and the Chinese Empire. These hostilities have necessarily interrupted the trade of all nations with Canton, which is now in a state of blockade, and have occasioned a serious loss of life and property. Meanwhile the insurrection within the empire against the existing imperial dynasty still continues, and it is difficult to anticipate what will be the result.

Under these circumstances, I have deemed it advisable to appoint a distinguished citizen of Pennsylvania envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to proceed to China, and to avail himself of any opportunities which may offer to effect changes in the existing treaty favorable to American commerce. He left the United States for the place of his destination in July last in the war steamer *Minnesota*. Special ministers to China have also been appointed by the governments of Great Britain and France.

Whilst our minister has been instructed to occupy a neutral position in reference to the existing hostilities at Canton, he will cordially co-operate with the British and French ministers in all peaceful measures to secure by treaty stipulations, those just concessions to commerce which the nations of the world have a right to expect, and which China cannot long be permitted to withhold. From assurances received, I entertain no doubt that the three ministers will act in harmonious concert to obtain similar commercial treaties for each of the powers they represent.

We cannot fail to feel a deep interest in all that concerns the welfare of the independent republics on our own continent, as well as of the empire of Brazil.

Our difficulties with New Granada, which a short time since bore so threatening an aspect, are, it is to be hoped, in a fair train of settlement in a manner just and honorable to both parties.

The Isthmus of Central America, including that of Panama, is the great highway between the Atlantic and Pacific, over which a large portion of the commerce of the world is destined to pass. The United States are more deeply interested than any other nation in preserving the freedom and security of all the communications across this isthmus. It is our duty, therefore, to take care that they shall not be interrupted either by invasions from our own country or by wars between the independent States of Central America. Under our treaty with New Granada of the 12th December, 1846 we are bound to guaranty the neutrality of the Isthmus of Panama, through which the Panama railroad passes, "as well as the rights of sovereignty and property which New Granada has and possesses over the said Territory." This obligation is founded upon equivalents granted by the treaty to the government and people of the United States.

Under these circumstances, I recommend to Congress the passage of an act authorizing the President, in case of necessity, to employ the land and naval forces of the United States to carry into effect this guarantee of neutrality and protection. I also recommend similar legislation for the security of any other route across the Isthmus in which we may acquire an interest by treaty.

With the independent republics on this continent it is both our duty and our interest to cultivate the most friendly relations. We can never feel indifferent to their fate, and must always rejoice in their prosperity. Unfortunately, both for them and for us, our example and advice have lost much of their influence in consequence of the lawless expeditions which have been fitted out against some of them within the limits of our country. Nothing is better calculated to retard our steady material progress, or impair our character as a nation, than the toleration of such enterprises in violation of the law of nations.

It is one of the fast and highest duties of any independent State, in its relations with the members of the great family of nations, to restrain its people from acts of hostile aggression against their neighbors or subjects. The most eminent writers of public law do not hesitate to denounce such hostile acts as robbery and murder.

Weak and feeble States, like those of Central America, may not feel themselves able to assert and vindicate their rights. The case would be far different if expeditions were set on foot within our own territories to make private war against a powerful nation. If such

expeditions were fitted out from abroad against any portion of our own country, to burn down our cities, murder and plunder our people, and usurp our government, we should call any power on earth to the strictest account for not preventing such enormities.

Ever since the administration of General Washington, acts of Congress have been in force to punish severely the crime of setting on foot a military expedition within the limits of the United States, to proceed from thence against a nation or State with whom we are at peace. The present neutrality act of April 20th, 1818, is but little more than a collection of pre-existing laws. Under this act the President is empowered to employ the land and naval forces and the militia for the purpose of preventing the carrying on of any such expedition or enterprise from the territories and jurisdiction of the United States, and the collectors of customs are authorized and required to detain any vessel in port when there is reason to believe she is about to take part in such lawless enterprises.

When it was first rendered probable that an attempt would be made to get up another unlawful expedition against Nicaragua, the Secretary of State issued instructions to the marshals and district attorneys, which were directed by the Secretaries of War and the Navy to the appropriate army and navy officers, requiring them to be vigilant, and to use their best exertions in carrying into effect the provisions of the act of 1818. Notwithstanding these precautions, the expedition has escaped from our shores. Such enterprises can do no possible good to the country, but have already inflicted much injury both on its interests and its character. They have prevented peaceful emigration from the United States to the States of Central America, which could not fail to prove highly beneficial to all the parties concerned. In a pecuniary point of view alone, our citizens have sustained heavy losses from the seizure and closing of the transit route by the San Juan between the two oceans.

The leader of the recent expedition was arrested at New Orleans, but was discharged on giving bail for his appearance in the insufficient sum of two thousand dollars.

I commend the whole subject to the serious attention of Congress, believing that our duty and our interest, as well as our national character, require that we should adopt such measures as will be effective in restraining our citizens from committing such outrages.

I regret to inform you that the President of Paraguay has refused to ratify the treaty between the United States and that State as amended by the Senate, the signature of which was mentioned in the message of my predecessor to Congress at the opening of its session in December, 1853. The reasons assigned for this refusal will appear in the correspondence herewith submitted.

It being desirable to ascertain the fitness of the river La Plata and its tributaries for navigation by steam, the United States steamer Water Witch was sent thither for that purpose in 1853. This enterprise was successfully carried on until February, 1855, when, whilst in the peaceful prosecution of her voyage up the Paraguay river, the steamer was fired upon by a Paraguayan fort. She was returned but as the Water Witch was of small force, and not designed for offensive operations, she retired from the conflict. The pretext upon which the attack was made was a decree of the President of Paraguay of October, 1854, prohibiting foreign vessels of war from navigating the rivers of that State. As Paraguay, however, was the owner of but one bank of the river of that name, the other belonging to Corrientes, a State of the Argentine Confederation, the right of its government to expect that such a decree would be obeyed cannot be acknowledged. But the Water Witch was not, properly speaking, a vessel of war. She was a small steamer engaged in a scientific enterprise intended for the advantage of commercial States generally. Under these circumstances, I am constrained to consider the attack upon her as unjustifiable, and as calling for satisfaction from the Paraguayan government.

Citizens of the United States, also, who were established in business in Paraguay, have had their property seized and taken from them, and have otherwise been treated by the authorities in an insulting and arbitrary manner, which requires redress.

A demand for these purposes will be made in a firm but conciliatory spirit. This will the more probably be granted if the Executive shall have authority to use other means in the event of a refusal. This is accordingly recommended.

It is unnecessary to state in detail the alarming condition of the Territory of Kansas at the time of my inauguration. The opposing parties then stood in hostile array against each other, and any accident might have relitigated the flames of civil war. Besides, at this critical moment, Kansas was left without a governor by the resignation of Gov. Geary.

On the 19th of February previous, the territorial legislature had passed a law providing for the election of delegates on the third Monday of June to a convention to meet on the first Monday of September, for the purpose of framing a constitution preparatory to admission into the Union. This law was in the main fair and just; and it is to be regretted that all the qualified electors had not registered themselves and voted under its provisions.

At the time of the election for delegates, an extensive organization existed in the Territory, whose avowed object it was, if need be, to put down the lawful government by force, and to establish a government of their own under the so-called Topeka constitution. The persons attached to this revolutionary organization abstained from taking any part in the election.

The act of the territorial legislature had omitted to provide for submitting to the people the constitution which might be framed by the convention; and in the excited state of public feeling throughout Kansas an apprehension extensively prevailed that a design existed to force upon them a constitution in relation to slavery against their will. In this emergency it became my duty, as it was my unquestionable right, having in view the union of all good citizens in support of the territorial laws, to express an opinion on the true construction of the provisions concerning slavery contained in the organic act of Congress of the 30th May, 1854. Congress declared it to be "the true intent and meaning of this act not to legislate slavery into any Territory or State, nor to exclude it therefrom, but to leave the people thereof perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way."

Under it Kansas, when admitted as a State, was to "be received into the Union, with or without slavery, as their constitution may prescribe at the time of their admission."

Did Congress mean by this language that the delegates elected to frame a constitution should have authority finally to decide the question of slavery, or did they intend by leaving it to the people that the people of Kansas themselves should decide this question by a direct vote?

On this subject I confess I had never entertained a serious doubt, and therefore, in my instructions to Governor Walker of the 28th March last, I merely said that when "a constitution shall be submitted to the people of the Territory, they must be protected in the exercise of their right of voting for or against that instrument, and the fair expression of the popular will must not be interrupted by fraud or violence."

In expressing this opinion it was far from my intention to interfere with the decision of the people of Kansas, either for or against slavery. From this I have always carefully abstained. Intrusted with the duty of taking "care that the laws be faithfully executed," my only desire was that the people of Kansas should furnish to Congress the evidence required by the organic act, whether for or against slavery; and in this manner smooth their passage into the Union. In emerging from the condition of territorial dependence into that of a sovereign State, it was their duty, in my opinion, to make known their will by the votes of the majority, on the direct question whether this important domestic institution should or should not continue to exist. Indeed, this was the only possible mode in which their will could be authentically ascertained.

The election of delegates to a convention must necessarily take place in separate districts. From this cause it may readily happen as has often been the case, that a majority of the people of a State or Territory are on one side of a question, whilst a majority of the representatives from the several districts into which it is divided may be upon the other side. This arises from the fact that in some districts delegates may be elected by small majorities, whilst in others those of different sentiments may receive majorities sufficiently great not only to overcome the votes given for the former, but to leave a large majority of the delegates. Besides, our history proves that influences may be brought to bear on the representative sufficiently powerful to induce him to disregard the will of his constituents. The truth is, that no other authentic and satisfactory mode exists of ascertaining the will of a majority of the people of any State or Territory on an important and exciting question like that of slavery in Kansas, except by leaving it to a direct vote. How wise, then, was it for Congress to pass over all subordinate and intermediate agencies, and proceed directly to the source of all legitimate power under our institutions!

How vain would any other principle prove in practice! This may be illustrated by the case of Kansas. Should she be admitted into the Union, with a constitution either maintaining or abolishing slavery, against the sentiment of the people, this could have no other effect than to continue and to exasperate the existing agitation during the brief period required to make the constitution conform to the irresistible will of the majority.

The friends and supporters of the Nebraska and Kansas act, when struggling on a recent occasion to sustain in its wise provisions before the great tribunal of the American people, never differed about its true meaning on this subject. Everywhere throughout the Union they publicly pledged their faith and their honor, that they would cheerfully submit the question of slavery to the decision of the bona fide people of Kansas, without any restriction or qualification whatever. All were cordially united upon the great doctrine of popular sovereignty, which is the vital principle of our free institutions. Had it then been insinuated from any quarter that it would be a sufficient compliance with the requisitions of the organic law for the members of a convention, thereafter to be elected, to withhold the question of slavery from the people, and to substitute their own will for that of a legally-assembled majority of all their constituents, this would have been instantly rejected. Everywhere they remained true to the resolution adopted on a celebrated occasion recognising "the right of the people of all the Territories—including Kansas and Nebraska—acting through the legally and fairly-expressed will of a majority of actual residents, and whenever the number of their inhabitants justifies it, to form a constitution, with or without slavery, and be admitted into the Union upon terms of perfect equality with the other States."

The convention to frame a constitution for Kansas met on the first Monday of September last. They were called together by virtue of an act of the territorial legislature, whose lawful existence had been recognised by Congress in different forms and by different enactments. A large proportion of the citizens of Kansas did not think proper to register their names and to vote at the election for delegates; but an opportunity to do this having been fairly afforded their refusal to avail themselves of their right could in no manner affect the legality of the convention.

This convention proceeded to frame a constitution for Kansas, and finally adjourned on the 7th day of November. But little difficulty occurred in the convention, except on the subject of slavery. The truth is that the general provisions of our recent State constitutions are so similar—and, I may add, so excellent—that the difference between them is not essential. Under the earlier practice of the government, no constitution framed by the convention of a Territory preparatory to its admission into the Union, had been submitted to the people. I trust, however, the example set by the last Congress, requiring that the constitution of Minnesota "should be subject to the approval and ratification of the people of the proposed State," may be followed on future occasions. I took it for granted that the convention of Kansas would act in accordance with this example, founded, as it is, on correct principles; and hence my instructions to Governor Walker, in favor of submitting the constitution to the people, were expressed in general and unqualified terms.

In the Kansas-Nebraska act, however this requirement, as applicable to the constitution had not been inserted, and the convention were not bound by its terms to submit any other portion of the instrument to an election, except that which relates to the "domestic institutions" of slavery. This will be rendered clear by a simple reference to its language. It was "not to legislate slavery into any Territory or State

nor to exclude it therefrom, but to leave the people thereof perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way." According to the plain construction of the sentence, the words "domestic institutions" have a direct as they have an appropriate reference to slavery. "Domestic institutions" are limited to the family. The relation between master and slave and a few others are "domestic institutions," and are entirely distinct from institutions of a political character. Besides, there was no question then before Congress, nor indeed has there since been any serious question before the people of Kansas or the country, except that which relates to the "domestic institution" of slavery.

The convention, after an angry and excited debate finally determined, by a majority of only two, to submit the question of slavery to the people, though at the last forty-three of the fifty delegates present affixed their signatures to the constitution.

A large majority of the convention were in favor of establishing slavery in Kansas. They accordingly inserted an article in the constitution for this purpose similar in form to those which had been adopted by other territorial conventions. In the schedule, however, providing for the transition from a territorial to a State government, the question has been fairly and explicitly referred to the people, whether they will have a constitution "with or without slavery." It declares, that before the constitution adopted by the convention "shall be sent to Congress for admission into the Union as a State," an election shall be held to decide this question, at which all the white male inhabitants of the Territory above the age of 21 are entitled to vote. They are to vote by ballot; and "the ballots cast at said election shall be endorsed 'constitution with slavery,' and 'constitution without slavery.'" If there be a majority in favor of the "constitution with slavery," then it is to be transmitted to Congress by the President of the Convention in its original form. If, on the contrary, there shall be a majority in favor of the "constitution with no slavery," then the article providing for slavery shall be stricken from the constitution by the President of this convention; and it is expressly declared that "no slavery shall exist in the State of Kansas, except that the right of property in slaves now in the Territory shall in no manner be interfered with; and in that event it is made his duty to have the constitution thus ratified transmitted to the Congress of the United States for the admission of the State into the Union."

At this election every citizen will have an opportunity of expressing his opinion by his vote "whether Kansas shall be received into the Union with or without slavery," and thus the existing question may be peacefully settled in the very mode required by the organic law. The election will be held under legitimate authority, and if any portion of the inhabitants shall refuse to vote, a fair opportunity to do so having been presented, this will be their own voluntary act, and they alone will be responsible for the consequences.

Whether Kansas shall be a free or a slave State must eventually, under some authority, be decided by an election; and the question can never be more calmly or accurately presented to the people than it is at the present moment. Should this opportunity be rejected, she may be involved for years in domestic discord, and possibly in civil war, before she can again make up the issue now so fortunately attained.

Kansas has for some years occupied too much of the public attention. It is high time this should be directed to far more important objects. When once admitted into the Union, whether with or without slavery, the excitement beyond her own limits will speedily pass away and she will then for the first time be left, as she ought to have been long since, to manage her own affairs in her own way. If her constitution on the subject of slavery, or on any other subject, be displeasing to a majority of the people, no human power can prevent them from changing it within a brief period. Under these circumstances, it may well be questioned whether the peace and quiet of the whole country are not of greater importance than the mere temporary triumph of either of the political parties in Kansas.

Should the constitution without slavery be adopted by the votes of the majority, the rights of property in slaves now in the Territory are reserved. The number of these is very small; but it were greater the provision would be equally just and reasonable. These slaves were brought into the Territory under the constitution of the United States, and are now the property of their masters. This point has at length been finally decided by the highest judicial tribunal of the country—and thus upon the plain principle that when a confederacy of sovereign States acquire a new territory at their joint expense, both equality and justice demand that the citizens of one and all of them shall have the right to take into it whatsoever is recognised as property by the common constitution. To have summarily confiscated the property in slaves already in the Territory, would have been an act of gross injustice, and contrary to the practice of the older States of the Union which have abolished slavery.

A territorial government was established for Utah by act of Congress approved the 9th September, 1850, and the constitution and laws of the United States were thereby extended over it "so far as the same, or any provisions thereof, may be applicable." This act provided for the appointment by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, of a governor, who was to be ex-officio superintendent of Indian affairs, a secretary, three judges of the supreme court, a marshal, and a district attorney. Subsequent acts provided for the appointment of the officers necessary to extend our land and our Indian system over the Territory. Brigham Young was appointed the first governor on the 20th September, 1850, and has held the office ever since. Whilst Governor Young has been both governor and superintendent of Indian affairs throughout this period, he has been at the same time the head of the church called the Latter-Day Saints, and professes to govern its members and dispose of their property by direct inspiration and authority from the Almighty. His power has been, therefore, absolute over both church and State.

The people of Utah, almost exclusively, belong to this church, and believing with a fanatical spirit that he is governor of the Territory by divine appointment, they obey his commands as if these were direct revelations from Heaven. If, therefore, he chooses that his government shall come into collision with the government of the United States, the members of the church will yield implicit obedience to his will. Unfortunately, existing facts leave but little doubt that such is his deter-

mination. Without entering upon a minute history of occurrences, it is sufficient to say that all the officers of the United States, judicial and executive, with the single exception of two Indian agents, have found it necessary for their own personal safety to withdraw from the Territory, and there no longer remains any government in Utah but the despotism of Brigham Young. This being the condition of affairs in the Territory, I could not mistake the path of duty. As Chief Executive Magistrate, I was bound to restore the supremacy of the constitution and laws within its limits. In order to effect this purpose, I appointed a new governor and other federal officers for Utah, and sent with them a military force for their protection, and to aid as a posse comitatus, in case of need, in the execution of the laws.

With the religious opinions of the Mormons, as long as they remained mere opinions, however deplorable in themselves and revolting to the moral and religious sentiments of all Christians, I had no right to interfere. Actions alone, when in violation of the constitution and laws of the United States, become the legitimate subjects for the jurisdiction of the civil magistrate. My instructions to Gov. Cumming have therefore been framed in strict accordance with these principles. At their date a hope was indulged that no necessity might exist for employing the military in restoring and maintaining the authority of the law; but this hope has now vanished. Gov. Young has, by proclamation, declared his determination to maintain his power by force, and has already committed acts of hostility against the United States. Unless he should retrace his steps, the Territory of Utah will be in a state of open rebellion. He has committed these acts of hostility notwithstanding Major Van Vliet, an officer of the army, sent to Utah by the commanding general to purchase provisions for the troops, had given him the strongest assurances of the peaceful intentions of the government, and that the troops would only be employed as a posse comitatus when called on by the civil authority to aid in the execution of the laws.

There is reason to believe that Gov. Young has long contemplated this result. He knows that the continuance of his despotic power depends upon the exclusion of all settlers from the Territory, except those who will acknowledge his divine mission, and implicitly obey his will; and that an enlightened public opinion there would soon prostrate institutions at war with the laws both of God and man. He has therefore for several years, in order to maintain his independence, been industriously employed in collecting and fabricating arms and munitions of war, and in disciplining the Mormons for military service. As superintendent of Indian affairs he has had an opportunity of tampering with the Indian tribes, and exciting their hostile feelings against the United States. This, according to our information, he has accomplished in regard to some of these tribes, while others have remained true to their allegiance, and have communicated his intrigues to our Indian agents. He has laid in a store of provisions for three years, which in case of necessity, as he informed Major Van Vliet, he will conceal, "and then take to the mountains, and bid defiance to all the powers of the government."

A great part of all this may be idle boasting; but yet no wise government will lightly estimate the efforts which may be inspired by such phrenzied fanaticism as existed among the Mormons in Utah. This is the first rebellion which has existed in our Territories; and humanity itself requires that we should put it down in such a manner that it shall be the last. To trifle with it would be to encourage it and to render it formidable. We ought to go there with such an imposing force as to convince these deluded people that resistance would be in vain, and thus spare the effusion of blood. We can in this manner best convince them that we are their friends, not their enemies. In order to accomplish this object it will be necessary, according to the estimate of the War Department, to raise four additional regiments; and this I earnestly recommend to Congress. At the present moment of depression in the revenues of the country I am sorry to be obliged to recommend such a measure; but I feel confident of the support of Congress, cost what it may, in suppressing the insurrection and in restoring and maintaining the sovereignty of the constitution and laws over the Territory of Utah.

I recommend to Congress the establishment of a territorial government over Arizona, incorporating with it such portions of New Mexico as they may deem expedient. I need scarcely adduce arguments in support of this recommendation. We are bound to protect the lives and the property of our citizens inhabiting Arizona, and these are now without any efficient protection. Their present number is already considerable, and is rapidly increasing, notwithstanding the disadvantages under which they labor. Besides the proposed Territory is believed to be rich in mineral and agricultural resources, especially in silver and copper. The mails of the United States to California are now carried over it throughout its whole extent, and this route is known to be the nearest, and believed to be the best to the Pacific.

Long experience has deeply convinced me that a strict construction of the powers granted to Congress is the only true, as well as the only safe, theory of the constitution. Whilst this principle shall guide my public conduct, I consider it clear that under the war-making power Congress may appropriate money for the construction of a military road through the Territories of the United States, when this is absolutely necessary for the defence of any of the States against foreign invasion. The constitution has conferred upon Congress power "to declare war," "to raise and support armies," "to provide and maintain a navy," and to call forth the militia to "repress insurrections."

These high sovereign powers necessarily involve important and responsible public duties, and among them there is none so sacred and so imperative as that of preserving our soil from the invasion of a foreign enemy. The Constitution has, therefore, left nothing on this point to construction, but expressly requires that "the United States shall protect each of them [the States] against invasion." Now, if a military road over our own Territories be indispensably necessary to enable us to meet and repel the invader, it follows as a necessary consequence not only that we possess the power, but it is our imperative duty to construct such a road. It would be an absurdity to invest a government with the unlimited power to make and conduct war, and at the same time deny to it the only means of reaching and defeating the enemy at the frontier. Without such a road it is quite evident we cannot "protect" California and our Pacific possessions "against invasion." We cannot by any other means transport men and munitions of war from the

Atlantic States in sufficient time successfully to defend these remote and distant portions of the republic.

Experience has proved that the routes across the isthmus of Central America are at best but a very uncertain and unreliable mode of communication. But even if this were not the case, they would at once be closed against us in the event of war with a naval power so much stronger than our own as to enable it to blockade the ports at either end of these routes. After all, therefore, we can only rely upon a military road through our own territories, and ever since the origin of the government Congress has been in the practice of appropriating money from the public treasury for the construction of such roads.

The difficulties and the expense of constructing a military railroad to connect our Atlantic and Pacific States have been greatly exaggerated. The distance on the Arizona route near the 32d parallel of north latitude, between the western boundary of Texas on the Rio Grande and the eastern boundary of California on the Colorado, from the best explorations now within our knowledge, does not exceed four hundred and seventy miles, and the face of the country is, in the main, favorable. For obvious reasons the government ought not to undertake work itself by means of its own agents. This ought to be committed to other agencies, which Congress might assist either by grants of land or money, or by both, upon such terms and conditions as they may deem most beneficial for the country. Provision might thus be made not only for the safe, rapid, and economical transportation of troops and munitions of war, but also of the public mails. The commercial interests of the whole country, both East and West, would be greatly promoted by such a road; and above all, it would be a powerful additional bond of union. And although advantages of this kind, whether postal, commercial or political, cannot confer constitutional power, yet they may furnish auxiliary arguments in favor of expediting a work which, in my judgment, is clearly embraced within the war-making power.

For these reasons I commend to the friendly consideration of Congress the subject of the Pacific railroad, without finally committing myself to any particular route.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury will furnish a detailed statement of the condition of the public finances and of the respective branches of the public service devolved upon that department of the government. By this report it appears that the amount of revenue received from all sources into the treasury during the fiscal year ending the 30th June, 1857, was sixty-eight million six hundred and thirty-one thousand five hundred and thirteen dollars and sixty-seven cents, (\$68,631,513.68), which amount, with the balance of nineteen million nine hundred and one thousand three hundred and twenty-five dollars and forty-five cents, (\$19,901,325.45), remaining in the treasury at the commencement of the year, made an aggregate for the service of the year of eighty-eight million five hundred and thirty-two thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine dollars and twelve cents, (\$88,532,839.12).

The public expenditures for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1857, amounted to seventy million eight hundred and twenty-two thousand seven hundred and twenty-four dollars and eighty-five cents, (\$70,822,724.85), of which five million nine hundred and forty-three thousand eight hundred and ninety-six dollars and ninety-one cents (\$5,943,896.91) were applied to the redemption of the public debt, including interest and premium, leaving in the treasury at the commencement of the present fiscal year on the 1st July, 1857, seventeen million seven hundred and ten thousand one hundred and fourteen dollars and twenty-seven cents, (\$17,710,114.27).

The receipts into the treasury for the first quarter of the present fiscal year, commencing 1st July, 1857, were twenty million nine hundred and twenty-nine thousand eight hundred and nineteen dollars and eighty-one cents, (\$20,929,819.81), and the estimated receipts of the remaining three quarters to the 30th June, 1858, are thirty-six million seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars, (\$36,750,000), making with the balance before stated an aggregate of seventy-five million three hundred and eighty-nine thousand nine hundred and eighty-four dollars and eight cents, (\$75,389,934.08), for the service of the present fiscal year.

The actual expenditures during the first quarter of the present fiscal year were twenty-three million seven hundred and fourteen thousand five hundred and twenty-eight dollars and thirty-seven cents, (\$23,714,528.37), of which three million eight hundred and ninety-five thousand two hundred and thirty-two dollars and thirty-nine cents (\$3,895,332.39) were applied to the redemption of the public debt, including interest and premium. The probable expenditures of the remaining three quarters, to 30th June, 1858, are fifty-one million two hundred and forty-eight thousand five hundred and thirty dollars and four cents (\$51,248,530.04), including interest on the public debt, making an aggregate of seventy-four million five hundred and sixty-three thousand eight hundred and seventy-one cents (\$74,963,058.41), leaving an estimated balance in the treasury at the close of the present fiscal year of four hundred and twenty-six thousand eight hundred and seventy-five dollars and eighty-seven cents, (\$426,875.67).

The amount of the public debt at the commencement of the present fiscal year was twenty-nine millions six hundred and thirty thousand and eighty-six dollars and ninety cents (\$29,000,886.90).

The amount redeemed since the last of July was three million eight hundred and ninety-five thousand two hundred and thirty-two dollars and thirty-nine cents (\$3,895,232.39)—leaving a balance unredeemed at the time of twenty-five million one hundred and sixty-five thousand one hundred and fifty-four dollars and fifty-one cents (\$25,105,154.51).

The amount of estimated expenditures for the remaining three quarters of the present fiscal year will, in all probability, be increased from the causes set forth in the report of the Secretary. His suggestion, therefore, that authority should be given to supply any temporary deficiency by the issue of a limited amount of treasury notes, is approved and I accordingly recommend the passage of such a law.

As stated in the report of the Secretary, the tariff of March 3, 1857, has been in operation for so short a period of time, and under circumstances so unfavorable to a just development of its results as a revenue measure, that I should

regard it as inexpedient, at least for the present, to undertake its revision.

I transmit herewith the reports made to me by the Secretaries of War and of the Navy, of the Interior and of the Postmaster General. They all contain valuable and important information, and suggestions which I commend to the favorable consideration of Congress.

I have already recommended the raising of four additional regiments, and the report of the Secretary of War presents strong reasons proving this increase of the army, under existing circumstances, to be indispensable.

I would call the special attention of Congress to the recommendation of the Secretary of the Navy in favor of the construction of ten small war steamers of light draught. For some years the government has been obliged on many occasions to hire such steamers from individuals to supply its pressing wants. At the present moment we have no armed vessels in the navy which can penetrate the rivers of China. We have but few which can enter any of the harbors south of Norfolk, although many millions of foreign and domestic commerce annually pass in and out of these harbors. Some of our most valuable interests and most vulnerable points are thus left exposed. This class of vessels of light draught, great speed and heavy guns would be formidable in coast defence. The cost of their construction will not be great, and they will require but a comparatively small expenditure to keep them in commission. In time of peace they will prove as effective as much larger vessels, and often more useful. One of them should be at every station where we maintain a squadron, and three or four should be constantly employed on our Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Economy, utility, and efficiency combine to recommend them as almost indispensable. Ten of these small vessels would be of incalculable advantage to the naval service, and the whole cost of their construction would not exceed two million three hundred thousand dollars, or \$2,300,000 each.

The report of the Secretary of the Interior is worthy of grave consideration. It treats of the numerous, important, and diversified branches of domestic administration intrusted to him by law. Among these the most prominent are the public lands and our relations with the Indians.

Our system for the disposal of the public lands, originating with the fathers of the republic, has been improved as experience pointed the way, and gradually adapted to the growth and settlement of our western States and Territories. It has worked well in practice. Already thirteen States and seven Territories have been carved out of these lands, and still more than a thousand millions of acres remain unsold. What a boundless prospect this presents to our country of future prosperity and power!

We have heretofore disposed of 363,862,434 acres of the public land.

Whilst the public lands as a source of revenue are of great importance, their importance is far greater as furnishing homes for a hardy and independent race of honest and industrious citizens, who desire to subdue and cultivate the soil. They ought to be administered mainly with a view of promoting this wise and benevolent policy. In appropriating them for any other purpose, we ought to use even greater economy than if they had been converted into money and the proceeds were already in the public treasury. To squander away this richest and noblest inheritance which any people have ever enjoyed upon objects of doubtful constitutionality or expediency, would be to violate one of the most important trusts ever committed to any people. Whilst I do not deny to Congress the power, when acting bona fide as a proprietor, to give away portions of them for the purpose of increasing the value of the remainder, yet, considering the great temptation to abuse this power, we cannot be too cautious in its exercise.

Actual settlers under existing laws are protected against other purchasers at the public sales, in their right of preemption, to the extent of a quarter-section, or 160 acres of land. The remainder may then be disposed of at public or entered at private sale in unlimited quantities.

Speculation has of late years prevailed to a great extent in the public lands. The consequence has been that large portions of them have become the property of individuals and companies, and thus the price is greatly enhanced to those who desire to purchase for actual settlement. In order to limit the area of speculation as much as possible, the extinction of the Indian title and the extension of the public surveys ought only to keep pace with the tide of emigration.

If Congress should hereafter grant alternate sections to States or companies, as they have done heretofore, I recommend that the intermediate sections retained by the government should be subject to pre-emption by actual settlers.

It ought ever to be our cardinal policy to reserve the public lands as much as may be for actual settlers, and this at moderate prices. We shall thus not only best promote the prosperity of the new States and Territories, and the power of the Union, but shall secure homes for our posterity for many generations.

The extension of our limits has brought within our jurisdiction many additional and populous tribes of Indians, a large proportion of which are wild, untractable, and difficult to control. Predatory and warlike in their disposition and habits, it is impossible altogether to restrain them from committing aggressions on each other, as well as upon our frontier citizens and those emigrating to our distant States and Territories. Hence expensive military expeditions are frequently necessary to overawe and chastise the more lawless and hostile.

The present system of making them valuable presents to influence them to remain at peace has proved ineffectual. It is believed to be the better policy to colonize them in suitable localities, where they can receive the rudiments of education and be gradually induced to adopt habits of industry. So far as the experiment has been tried it has worked well in practice, and it will doubtless prove to be less expensive than the present system.

The whole number of Indians within our territorial limits is believed to be, from the best data in the Interior Department, about 825,000.

The tribes of Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickasaws and Creeks, settled in the territory set apart for them west of Arkansas, are rapidly advancing in education and in all the arts of civilization and self-government, and we may indulge the agreeable anticipation that at no very distant day they will be incorporated in-

BEDFORD INQUIRER.

BEDFORD INQUIRER.



BEDFORD, Pa.
Friday Morning, Dec. 18, 1857.

"FEARLESS AND FREE."
D. OVER - Editor and Proprietor.

Reduction of Terms!
THE INQUIRER AT ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS, IN ADVANCE!

We have changed the terms of the *Bedford Inquirer*, from this date, to \$1.50 per annum, if paid in advance. If payment be not made within the year, \$2.00 will be charged. If delayed until after the year expires, \$2.50 will be charged. These terms will be rigidly adhered to in all cases.

All subscriptions paid between this date and February Court, on the new year, will be considered in advance.

Come on, then, friends, and subscribe for the *Inquirer*; there is scarcely a man in the County but can afford to take a County paper at these low rates.

To all our old subscribers, who are indebted to us for over one year's subscription, we will settle off at the rate of \$2.00 per annum, if paid until February Court. After that time \$2.50 will be charged.

Dec. 4, 1857.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

We publish this week, to the exclusion of nearly everything else, the long and windy message of James Buchanan. On the Kansas question he goes the full length with the South. He is in favor of the Constitution of the late bogus Convention, and against allowing the people of the territory, the privilege of voting upon its provisions. On this question, he is opposed by Douglas, Forney and many of the Locofoco members of Congress, and leading politicians in different parts of the country. We have also heard the President condemned in unmeasured terms by some of the purest and best Democrats in this place. The strong probability is, that this Kansas question will cause a serious split in the Locofoco party. We have no room for further comments. Let every one read the message and see how far a "Northern man with Southern feelings" can go.

APPOINTED.

Our readers are no doubt aware that George W. Bowman, the late infamous editor of the *Bedford Gazette*, has been rewarded with a \$3,500 office, with a salary of \$1,000 per annum, and if not, we presume, on account of Bowman's desertion of him in 1847, and support of Dallas. The President has been accused, with justice, of rewarding his enemies and deserting his friends, and this is a case in point. Bowman, the slanderer of the living and the dead, of the old and the young, of some of the best people of the County, and among them innocent and respectable females, is now rewarded by this dirty, corrupt and wicked administration. For a man to be a dirty, low blackguard, is a sufficient passport to office from Buchanan. The respectable portion of our community are glad to get rid of the slanderous blackguard, Bowman, however, in any manner.

The *Baltimore Clipper* has the following in relation to the appointment:

"REWARDED.—Geo. W. Bowman, of the *Bedford Gazette* (Pa.)—one of the lowest and most scurrilous locofoco sheets in the Union, has been elected Superintendent of the public printing; it only remains for Congress to halt two fellows, well met, to elect Banks of the Southside (Va.) Democrat as printer. A better span of blackguards could not be trotted out."

MAJ. WASHBAUGH, our late Prothonotary, retired on the first inst., and MAJ. TAYE now fills the office. For the six years since Maj. Washbaugh has held the office, all admit that its responsible duties were never performed to more advantage to the people of Bedford County. He was honest, capable and obliging, and the best wishes of the whole community, go with him in his retirement.

MAJ. TAYE, his successor, is a good, clever fellow, and we presume, will give general satisfaction.

WE would inform our readers, that a new supply of LADIES DRESS CAPS, CHILDREN'S BOXES, CLOAKS, &c., &c., have just been received at Mrs. H. D. PEROT & Co.'s "Fancy Store," which for cheapness and quality—can't be surpassed. Call and see them.

Messrs. Reilly and Edie of the House, Washington, and D. J. Chapman, Esq., of Philadelphia, have our thanks for early copies of the President's Message.

Sheriff Moore has retired, and his successor, Sheriff Fleck, has assumed the duties of the office. Both have our best wishes in their new positions.

The Message has crowded out many things we wished to insert.

THE SUSPENSION OF SPECIE PAYMENT, however it may have effected the financial world in general, has not much influence upon the monetary affairs of "OLD KRIS KINKLE," for we see he has, amongst other nice things, for Christmas, sent to our enterprising friend, Gettys, the most complete and handsome assortment of stock for putting up of Ambrotypes, Daguerotypes, &c., &c., we have ever seen. Those wishing to make holiday gifts can have no want of appropriate articles, for what more suitable tokens of remembrance can be found for "Christmas festal hours," than the image of the giver delineated in the beautiful style, for which Gettys has become so celebrated.

Many cases of Dysentery, in its most severe form, have been cured by the administration of Dr. VALL'S GALVANIC OIL. Cholera Morbus and all diseases of the bowels are relieved in a short time, by a few drops of *Galvanic Oil*. For sale by B. F. HARRY, and F. C. REANER, Bedford, William Lysinger, J. B. Farquhar, and all country merchants.

Estates of William Lane, dec'd.

BEDFORD COUNTY, SS.
At an Orphans' Court, held at Bedford, in and for the County of Bedford, on the 16th day of November, A. D. 1857, before the Judges of the same Court.

The petition of John Mower and S. L. Russell, Administrators de bonis non, cum testamento annexo of William Lane, late of said County, dec'd., was read and filed, setting forth, that in pursuance of an order of this Court, they made sale of all the Real Estate of the said dec'd., so far as they then knew, and the money arising therefrom was applied to the payment of the debts of said dec'd., so far as the same were reached; that they have lately been informed that the said William Lane owned a body of unimproved wood land in Lettisbury Township, Franklin County, adjoining lands of Isaac Rosenberry, and others containing 2000 acres or thereabouts, that debts to a considerable amount, not less than \$8,200, against the estate said dec'd. had remained unpaid, and praying the Court to make a decree authorizing them to raise, say \$8,000, if possible, from the said Real Estate in Franklin County.

Whereupon, on motion of S. L. Russell, Esq., the Court grant a Rule upon the heirs, and all parties interested, to be and appear at an Orphans' Court, to be held at Bedford, on the 22d Monday, 8th day of February, next, and show cause, if any they have, why a decree should not be made by the Court, pursuant to the prayer of the petitioners.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of our said Court at Bedford, the 19th day of November, A. D. 1857.

Dec. 18, 1857.

Turnpike Election.

AN Election for President and six Managers of the Somerset and Bedford Turnpike Road Company, will be held at the house of Joshua Palmer, in Somerset County, on the 1st Monday of January, next.

BENJAMIN KIMMEL, Pres't.

Division.

A Dividend was declared on the 16th of Nov. A. M., last, of one per cent, to be paid by Jacob Munser, Treasurer.

BENJAMIN KIMMEL, Pres't.

Teacher's Institute.

A Teacher's Institute will be held at Bloody Run, beginning on the 25th of this month. The principal attendance of all the Teachers in East and West Providence, Monaca, Celerina Hopewell, Broad Top, Liberty, Bedford, Middle and South Woodbury Townships, is requested by the COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT.

Dec. 18, 1857.

Take Notice.

THAT the subscribers have purchased of Henry J. Zimmerman, the following personal property, to wit: one Bay Mare, one Black Mare, one Geld and broad tread Waggon, which property we intend leaving with him during our absence.

PIPER & SCOTT.

Pattonsville, Dec. 18, 1857.

THE GOLDEN PRIZE.

THE NEW YORK ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY Golden Prize.

One of the largest and best literary papers of the day. An imperial quarto, containing eight pages, or forty columns of choice reading matter each week.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR.

And a Gift will be presented to each subscriber immediately on receipt of the subscription money.

Each subscriber will be entitled to a gift worth from \$1 to \$500.00 in Gold.

3 Copies for 1 year \$5.00

10 " " " 15.00

25 " " " 35.00

50 " " " 65.00

100 " " " 100.00

200 " " " 150.00

300 " " " 200.00

400 " " " 250.00

500 " " " 300.00

600 " " " 350.00

700 " " " 400.00

800 " " " 450.00

900 " " " 500.00

1000 " " " 550.00

1100 " " " 600.00

1200 " " " 650.00

1300 " " " 700.00

1400 " " " 750.00

1500 " " " 800.00

1600 " " " 850.00

1700 " " " 900.00

1800 " " " 950.00

1900 " " " 1000.00

2000 " " " 1050.00

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2300 " " " 1200.00

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14600 " " " 7350.00

14700 " " " 7400.00

14800 " " " 7450.00

14900 " " " 7500.00

15000 " " " 7550.00

15100 " " " 7600.00

15200 " " " 7650.00

15300 " " " 7700.00

Great Arrival of FALL AND WINTER GOODS.

JUST received and on hand, the best assortment of **BOOTS AND SHOES** that could be selected for the citizens of Bedford, and strangers visiting the place. I door south of Minnick's Confectionary Store, on Juliana Street.

Men's Gaiters, Water-Proof long legged Boots, Men's Black sole eastern made long legged Boots, Men's Kip and coarse Heavy Boots, Gents' Oxford Ties, Gents' Congress Gaiters, Men's Heavy city made Brogue, Ladies' Morocco Boots, Ladies' Goat Hoof Boots, Women's Calf heavy winter Boots, Misses' and Children's Boots in variety, Boys' Boots of all kinds, size and description.

Persons wishing to purchase good Boots and Shoes will please give me a call before buying elsewhere.

ADAM FERGUSON.

Oct. 2, 1857.

NOTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given that an application will be made to the next Legislature of the State of Pennsylvania, for the passage of an Act of Assembly authorizing the incorporation of a Bank of issue, with general banking and discounting privileges, under the general banking laws of this State, to be located at the Borough of Bedford, in the County of Bedford, and called "The Bedford County Bank," with a capital of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and with the privilege of increasing the same to the sum of four hundred thousand dollars.

E. L. ANDERSON,
W. F. DAUGHERTY,
W. F. SCHELL,
A. KING,
NICHOLAS LYONS,
SAMUEL L. RUSSELL.
Bedford, Pa., June 29, 1856-6m.

W. HOERKENS, UPHOLSTERER.

WOULD announce to the citizens of Bedford and vicinity, that he is prepared to do all work in his line, in the best style, and on reasonable terms. Mattresses, with or without springs, made in a superior manner, equal to the best made in the city, and to the branch of his business he would invite special attention. He may be found at the shop of Michael Weiss, a short distance East of the Exchange, or at his residence on East Pitt street, one door west of Mt. Washington.

Bedford, Dec. 5, 1856.

MUSIC & MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.—
Pianos, Melodians, Flutes, Guitars, Brass Horns, Clarinets, Drums, &c., of various manufacture, always on hand. Bands supplied at city wholesale rates. We keep always on hand a full assortment of all the new and fashionable music, which we sell at our expense to any part of the country.

N. B. Music arranged to order.
SHERVOCK & SMITH,
Chambersburg.

DISOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.

THE partnership heretofore existing between Henry S. King, and James Madara, under the name and firm of Madara, King & Co., doing business at Lehigh Iron Works, in Hopewell Township Bedford County, is dissolved by mutual consent.

HENRY S. KING,
JAMES MADARA.

Nov. 27, 1857-1m.

FOUNDRY AND MACHINE SHOP!

The subscribers having formed a partnership under the name of "Beck & Ashcom" for the purpose of conducting a general

FOUNDRY AND MACHINE

business in the establishment recently erected by Gilliard Dock, in Hopewell, Bedford County, are now prepared to execute orders for **CASTINGS AND MACHINERY** of every description. They will build to order steam engines, coal and drifters, horse powers and threshing machines, also, casting of every kind for farmers, forges, saws, and rolling mills, ploughs, water-pipe, columns, house fronts, brackets, &c., &c.

They are also, now making a fine assortment of **STOVES** of various kinds of the latest patterns and most approved styles, including several sizes of **COOK STOVES** of the best make, heating stoves for churches, offices, bar-rooms, &c.

A full assortment of Stoves will be kept constantly on hand, and sold to the public at retail, at prices to suit the times, and quality warranted equal to the best eastern make. Machinery of all kinds repaired promptly. Patterns made to order.

GILLIARD DOCK,
G. W. ASHCUM.

Nov. 8, 1857.

NEW FALL GOODS.

THE subscribers have just opened a large assortment of **FALL AND WINTER GOODS**, all of which will be offered at prices to suit the times. We respectfully invite each and prompt six month customers to call and examine our stock, assuring them that we will offer greater inducements than ever heretofore.

Country Produce of all kinds wanted, for which we will pay the highest prices.

A. B. GRAMER & CO.
Oct. 18, 1857.

Chairs and Cabinet Furniture.

THE subscriber has removed to the shop on West Pitt Street, recently occupied by Wm. Ritchey as a Machine shop, where he continues to make to order and keep on hand a general assortment of chairs and cabinet furniture, consisting in part of Spring Seat Parlor Chairs, French Bedding Chairs, Game seat and Windsor Sofas, Lounges, Ottomans, What-Nots, Music Stands, Fancy Parlor Tables, Breakfast Dinner, and Extension Tables, Bedsteads, Bureaus, Washstands, &c. Suits of cottage-furniture at very moderate prices. That it is within the reach of all to have nice, good and fashionable furniture. The Ladies are particularly invited to call and examine for themselves, as it will be my desire to please all tastes.

N. B. Goods will be made on the shortest notice for any who will favor him with an order.

JOHN H. ALLEN & CO.
NO. 2 & 4 CHESTNUT Street, (south side, below Water) PHILADELPHIA.

THESE FINE FURNITURE, IN THE CITY, MANUFACTURED, and Wholesale and Retail, are sold at the lowest prices. Warranted to be durable, GOOD and WILLOW-WARE, CHAIRS, BEDDING, &c., of all descriptions, please call and examine our stock.

Feb. 27, 1857-1m.

NOTICE.

ALL persons are hereby notified that my wife, Sophia O'Neil, has left my house, without any of my goods, and that I am determined to prosecute any person who shall harbor or assist her in any way.

A. King, Fr. Jordan, LAW PARTNERSHIP.

King & Jordan, Attorneys at Law
BEDFORD, PA.

WILL practice in the several Courts of Bedford and adjoining counties. Agencies, Collections, and all other business entrusted to their care will be promptly and faithfully attended to.

OFFICE in Juliana street, formerly occupied by D. H. Mohr, Esq., and more recently in the occupancy of Jos. Mann, Esq.

January 5, 1855.

JOHN MANN, G. H. SPANG.

HOFIUS & FILLER, ATTORNEYS AT LAW,

BEDFORD, PA.

WILL PROMPTLY ATTEND TO ALL legal business entrusted to their care. During the sessions of the court, the senior partner may be found at the office of the firm, two doors south of Hon. S. L. Russell's office.

D. H. HOFIUS,
JNO. H. FILLER.

Bedford, Nov. 18, 1856.

Dr. F. C. Reamer, Physician and Surgeon.

Respectfully tenders his services to the citizens of Bedford and vicinity. He may always be found (unless professionally engaged) at his Drug and Book Store, in Juliana St.

Feb. 19, 1857.

SAMUEL RADEBAUGH, Justice of the Peace.

OFFICE two doors South of the Mangel House, and next door to the office of Mann & Spang, where he will attend to the collection of all debts placed in his hands.

Bedford, Jan. 12, 1856.

THE MANGEL HOUSE, Valentine Stockman, PROPRIETOR.

Boarders taken by the day, week, month and year.

April 25, 1856-1m.

Gettys' Photographic Gallery, EXCHANGE BUILDING, BEDFORD, PA.

WHERE Ambrotypes, Daguerrotypes, &c., &c., are executed in the latest style and improvements of art. A full assortment of plain and fancy cases, gold and plated Lockets at very low prices.

The public are respectfully invited to call and examine his specimens.

TR. GETTYS, Jr.
May 22, 1857.

WINDMILLS AND MILLING!

THE subscriber would respectfully inform his old customers, as well as public generally, that he has continued his manufacture of **WINDMILLS**, and keeps them on hand constantly. He will also do all kinds of repairing in this line of business. His mills are well known in Bedford County, and it is unnecessary to say anything of them. His shop is, as formerly, at the East end of Bedford, on Pitt Street, near the Foundry.

SIMON DICKERHOOF.
Aug. 21, 1857-3m.

LATEST ARRIVAL AT REEDS. NEW GOODS!

NOTWITHSTANDING the pecuniary embarrassment, and the universal complaint of the hard times, the subscriber takes pleasure in announcing to the people of Bedford and vicinity, that he has just returned from the Eastern Cities, with a large, handsome and cheap stock of

FALL AND WINTER COOK,

among which may be found Ladies' Dress coats, French Merins, Cashmere, Satin, Tweeds, Mous de Laine, Jeans, Vestings, and a great variety of other Goods for ladies and children's wear.

GROCERIES, HARDWARE, QUEENWARE, &c., &c.

An excellent assortment of **BOOTS AND SHOES.**

All kinds of Country Produce for exchange for Goods. The notes of all the Pennsylvania Banks taken at par, as well as the notes of good Banks of other States.

JACOB REED.
Oct. 30, 1857.

A Great Arrival of FALL AND WINTER GOODS.

THE undersigned has just returned from the Eastern Cities, with a large stock of Fall and Winter Goods, and is now exhibiting at a general assortment of new styles and

Water Goods, comprising Ladies' Dress Goods, in part Crocovel, Satin striped and plain De Laine, Barred Cashmere, Thibet Cloth, Alpaca, De Balze, Calicoes, &c.

For Gentlemen and Boys' wear, Gaiters, Boots, Shoes, Hats, Bonnets, Trunks and Bags, Carpets, Floor Oil Cloth, Syrings, Plaster, White and Brown Sugars, Green & Black Tea, Groceries of all kinds, Canned Goods, Pickles, Pickled Cabbages, &c. &c.

All kinds of Produce taken in exchange for goods.

The undersigned will sell cheap for cash, or produce, and hopes by fair dealing to receive his usual share of patronage.

G. W. UPP.
Oct. 2, 1857.

LOST! LOST!

ONE box of Reddick's Compound, in Hollis Churching to A. Farguana's Shop, in Philadelphia. The owner, if known, is please to forward, prove property, and receive the reward.

Nov. 11, 1857.

25 WITNESSES; or, THE FORGER CONVICTED.

John S. Dye is the Author,
Who has had 10 years experience as a Banker and Publisher, and Author of a series of Lectures on the Forgery of Bank Notes.

When, for successive nights over 25,000 People of all Ages, who have exhibited the manner in which Counterfeiters execute their Frauds, and the Surest and Shortest Means of Detecting them.

The Bank Note Examiner says that he is the greatest Judge of Paper Money living. He has exhibited the manner in which Counterfeiters execute their Frauds, and the Surest and Shortest Means of Detecting them.

GREATEST DISCOVERY OF THE PRESENT CENTURY FOR Detecting Counterfeit Bank Notes.

Describing every Genuine Bill in Existence, and exhibiting at a glance every Counterfeit in Circulation. Arranged so admirably that REFERENCE IS EASY AND DETECTION INSTANTANEOUS. No index to examine! No pages to hunt up! But so simplified and arranged, that the Merchant, Banker, and Business Man can see all at a Glance.

English, French and German. Thus Each may read the same in his own Native Tongue.

Most Perfect Bank Note List Published. Also a List of All the Private Bankers in America.

A Complete Summary of the Finance of Europe and America will be published in each edition, together with all the important NEWS OF THE DAY. Also a SERIES OF TALKS From an Old Manuscript found in the East. It furnishes the Most Complete History of ORIENTAL LIFE.

Describing the Most Perplexing Positions in which the Ladies and Gentlemen of that Country have been often found. These Stories will continue throughout the whole year, and will prove the Most Entertaining ever offered to the Public.

Published Weekly to Subscribers only, at \$1 a year. All letters must be addressed to

JOHN S. DYE, Broker,
Publisher and Proprietor, 70 Wall Street, April 21, 1857-22. New York.

NEW FANCY STORE.

MRS. B. D. PUGH & Co., respectfully invite the attention of the ladies of Bedford and vicinity, to their new and handsome stock of goods, just opened in "Mann's Building," Juliana Street, opposite the Exchange, in Bedford. These goods have been selected with the greatest care, and are of the latest styles and best quality.

Their stock consists in part of: Ladies' Black and Colored Silks, All Wool De Laine, De Laine (printed), Black Gros de Rhine, French Merino, (plain and printed), Moss Head Fringes, Bangles, Ladies' Kid Gloves, Ladies' Gaiters, Gents' Black Kid Gloves, Blackened Fancy Elastic Belts, Bangles, Trimmings, Chemise Scarfs, Chemise Neck Dresses, Fancy French Corsets, Velveteen, &c., &c.

Ladies and Children's BONNETS, in great variety. A general assortment of Ladies' and Misses' SHOES, GAITERS, OVER SHOES, &c.

SHAWLS of every quality and description. PERFUMERY, EXTRACTS, JEWELRY, &c., &c.

Bedford, Oct. 30, 1857.

STAGE OFFICE, WASHINGTON HOTEL, Bedford, Pa.

MRS. MARY COOK would announce to her friends and the public, that she has fitted up this hotel, and will know stand, in a very superior style, for the accommodation of the public. Visitors to the Bedford Mineral Springs will find the Washington Hotel a comfortable summer retreat, and no pains will be spared to please all who patronize the house.

Boarders will be taken by the day, week, month and year. A gentleman of high qualification, and courteous deportment, has charge of the house, who will do all in his power to make the guests happy and comfortable.

Terms as moderate as anywhere else in the place. Daily Stages from Lefebvre, Cumberland, Hollidaysburg and Hopewell, all stop at this hotel.

A Hotel belonging to this Hotel will run between Bedford and the Springs.

Bedford, June 12, 1857-1m.

IMPORTANT TO MILL OWNERS.

WOODWARD'S Improved Smut and Screen-Mill Machines, Mill Blushes, Rollers, Cloths, and Brass Distorts, of the most improved pattern. Mill Screws, Corn and Cob Grinders, Round Bridges for Mill Spindles, Portable Mills warranted to grind ten bushels per hour, Mill Irons and Mill Bars made to order. Also, Stoves, Furnaces, Corn Kils and Grain Driers—a valuable invention. The above articles are kept constantly on hand, and can be obtained at any time, from S. D. BROAD.

Schellburg, Bedford County, who is also the agent for Bedford, Somerset, and adjoining Counties.

Millwright work done at the shortest notice and on the most reasonable terms.

February 15, 1856. MCGORMICK'S Reaper and Mower for sale by S. D. BROAD, at Schellburg, Pa., agent for Blair and Bedford Counties.

Plastering Laths!!

THE UNDERSIGNED having erected a Mill for sawing PLASTERING LATHS on his premises in Union Tp., Bedford County, is now ready to furnish any quantity on the shortest notice. Price \$1.50 per thousand, 3 ft. long. Other lengths in proportion.

Letters addressed to meat St. Clairsville, will be promptly attended to.

WM. GRIFFITH.
Union Tp., Feb. 16, 1854-22.

Look Here, Storekeepers and Others!

THE greatest assortment of Toys of every description, and Fancy articles of endless variety, you can find at the great Christmas Store, No. 144, N. 24th St., above Arch. Philadelphia. Also Fancy Basket, Pipes, Sugar Cases, Tobacco Boxes, Dolls, Games, China, Kids and Wax Babies, and a great many other articles too numerous to mention.

JOHN DOLL, Importer,
144, N. 24th St., Sept. 4, 1857.

Beck's and Linn's Extracts for the Household—Chili, Cologne Water, &c., at Dr. Harry's.

THE INQUIRER

is published every Friday morning, in Juliana Street, in the white frame building, nearly opposite the Mangel House, by

DAVID OVER.

TERMS.—If paid in advance, \$1.00 within the year, \$2.00; and if not paid, within the year, \$2.50 will be charged. No paper discontinued until all arrearages are paid—except at the option of the Editor. A failure to comply with the above will be regarded as a new engagement.

Advertisements not exceeding a square (12 lines) inserted three times for \$1—every subsequent insertion, 25 cents. Longer ones in the same proportion. Each fraction of a square counted as a full square. All advertisements are specially ordered for a given time will be continued until forborne. A liberal deduction will be made to those who advertise by the year.

Job Printing of all kinds executed neatly and promptly and on reasonable terms.

Bedford Classical School, AND FEMALE SEMINARY.

Male and Female Departments Dis-junct.

Rev. G. W. AUGHRINBAUGH, A. M., Principal.

Mrs. Geo. W. AUGHRINBAUGH, Preceptress.

Miss CORNELIA A. EVANTS, Music, French, Drawing, &c.

Mrs. Lucy SPOTSWOOD, Oil Painting and Shell Work.

Miss MARY HELEN SMITH, Assistant.

THE duties of this institution will be resumed on Monday, Aug. 31st. Owing to the limited accommodations of the Seminary Building, the number of pupils will be limited. It is important, therefore, that applications for admission be made at an early day. Those who enter before the expiration of half the quarter, will be charged for the whole quarter; those who enter after the expiration of half the quarter, will be charged for the half quarter. No deduction made for absence except in cases of protracted illness.

In this school students are prepared for the higher classes of any college, or to enter at once upon the active duties of life.—Whilst special care is taken to form in our pupils habits of order, strict punctuality and thoroughness, their Physical, Moral and Social Education is not neglected.

The government of the school is designed to be parental. It is the aim of the Principal and his associates to excite in their pupils a love of right doing; and to awaken within them some proper consciousness of the dignity of humanity. Parents may rest assured that any gross delinquency on the part of their children will be reported to them immediately, should circumstances require it, or the discipline of the school fail to accomplish the desired reformation.

TERMS per quarter of 11 weeks, including Board, Tuition, Furnished Room, Washing, Light and Fuel, \$40.00—one-half in advance.

EXTRA CHARGES.
Music, \$10 00
Use of Instrument, 2 00
French, 5 00
Drawing, and painting in Water Colors, each, 5 00
Oriental Painting, 5 00
Grocery Painting, 5 00
Oil Painting, 10 00
Ornamental Needle Work, 5 00
Shell Work, 5 00

TERMS FOR DAY SCHOLARS.
Elementary English, \$4 00
Higher, 4 00
Classics, 6 25

Bedford, August 8, 1857.

Administrator's Notice.

LETTERS of administration having been granted to the subscriber, living in St. Clair Tp., on the estate of Rebecca Wright, late of said township, dead, all persons knowing themselves indebted to said estate are hereby notified to make payment immediately, and those having claims against the same will present them properly authenticated for settlement.

THOMAS G. WRIGHT, Adm'r.

Nov. 20, 1857.

WANTED.

TWO Journeyman Tailors will be employed by the subscriber, if application be made immediately, constant employment, and good wages will be given.

C. LOYER.
Bedford, Dec. 12, 1856.

TO HOUSEKEEPERS.

DR. HARRY, at the Drug and Book Store, has just received, a large assortment of the best flavoring extracts, together with Sals, Cream of Tartar, Saleratus, &c., of the very best quality, all of which he will sell the lowest prices.

For pimples, and wrinkles and freckles and tan. Nothing has ever been discovered by man, like this wonderful product of tropical bow-trees. The popular "Balm of a Thousand Flowers." To be had at DR. HARRY'S.

March 6, 1857.

WHITE TEETH and a perfumed breath can be acquired by using the "Balm of a Thousand Flowers." To be had at DR. HARRY'S.

March 6, 1857.

A the season for chapped hands and faces is coming on, we advise our friends to call on Dr. Harry, at the cheap Drug Store, and get Dr. Babin's Ammoniac for prevention and cure of chapped hands, only 75¢ per box.

Physicians prescriptions carefully compounded, at all hours of the day or night, at Dr. Harry's Drug Store.

For the Hay-Jockey Club, and now town hay, pomatums, genuine ox marrow at Dr. Harry's.

STONEWARE.—Cream Crocks, Milk

Crocks of all sizes; Butter Crocks, from one to one and a half gallon Pitchers, all of which are of best quality, for sale by

Bedford, Jan. 16, 1856. A. FERGUSON.

DR. B. F. HARRY

RESPECTFULLY tenders his professional services to the citizens of Bedford and vicinity. Office and residence on Pitt-Street, in the building formerly occupied by Dr. J. H. Hoffman.

Nov. 8, 1857.

DRUGS, BOOKS AND STATIONERY.

DR. F. C. REAMER,
BEDFORD, PA.

HAVING purchased the Drug and Book Store of Dr. S. D. Scott, has constantly on hand, at the old stand, a large and well selected stock of choice Drugs and Medicines, wholesale and retail, all of which will be sold on moderate terms. The assortment consists in part of:

Drugs and Chemicals, Dry Woods and Acids, Paints and Oils, Window Glass and Glass Ware, Tobacco and Segars, Perfumery, Fancy Articles, &c., &c.

PATENT MEDICINES.—Having the regular agency for the sale of many of these medicines, the proprietor is assured that they are of the best quality, and have stood the test of time and experience, and can be safely recommended as genuine, viz: Townsend's and Sand's Sarsaparilla, Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry, Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, Moffat's Life Pills and Phoenix Bitters, Dr. Jayer's Family Medicine, Pains-Expeller, S. Roberts' and other valuable Remedies; Haddock's German Balm, &c., &c.

Constantly on hand a large stock of historic, geographical, scientific religious, poetical, school and miscellaneous BOOKS.

Also a great variety of FANCY STATIONERY, Cap, Post and Wrapping Paper, of every quality, Paper Hangings in great variety. Window Blinds, in patterns or by the piece. Wall Paper, Steel and Fancy Goods.

BLANK BOOKS of every size and quality.—Porked Books and Port Manteaus, Diaries, Blank Deeds and Mortgages, gold Pens and Pencils, Combs, Brushes, Perfumery in great variety, Soaps, &c., &c.

Lamps, and Camphene Oil and Burning Fluid, Choice Liquors for medicinal use, Wm's Schellburg Schnapps, Gilt, Port, Sherry and Madeira Wines.

Feb. 19, 1857.

Gift and Retail Book Store.